

2nd annual

Women in Construction

SUMMIT 2025

EMPOWER, INSPIRE, BUILD: WOMEN ELEVATING CONSTRUCTION
THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, SKILL & LEADERSHIP

29 APRIL - 1 MAY 2025 | MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE | AUSTRALIA

Speakers include:



Cathryn Greville
Chief Executive Officer
NAWIC



Jessie Murray
Commercial Manager
Defence & Special Projects
ADCO Constructions



Skye Bowie
Chief Integrity & Risk Officer
and Acting Chief Building
Regulator
**Queensland Building &
Construction Commission**



Stefanie Nutt
People and Culture Director -
M7-M12 Integration Project,
John Holland;
Director, **NAWIC**



Gladys Woods
General Manager
Haslin Constructions



Dominique Gill
Managing Director
Urban Core



Sinéad Redmond
Head of Infrastructure
Delivery
GeelongPort



Bohemia Hookham
Sustainability Manager,
Construction
Lendlease



Nicole Neal
General Manager -
Health Safety Environment &
Sustainability
McConnell Dowell



Katrina Rio
Acting Director Social &
Sustainable Infrastructure
Major Road Projects Victoria



Kate Leone
Communications Engineer
UGL



Ivan Fratric
General Manager VIC/
SA/TAS
BMD Group



Sharon Gray
Group Manager -
Diversity, Indigenous &
Social Inclusion
CPB Contractors



Nancy Italiano
Creative Design Director
Acustruct



Claire Hudson
Head of Workforce
Planning & Recruitment
**Richard Crookes
Constructions**

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TODAY!**

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Organised by:



AUSTRALIA'S MOST POPULAR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION EVENT RETURNS!

After an incredible event last year, Australia's foremost gathering of women in construction returns with exciting new speakers, all new content, engaging new formats, and more opportunities to meet and connect with peers than ever before.

This year's event features a renewed focus on real life examples of how people and organisations have successfully driven diversity, featuring a wide range of inspirational speakers, including c-suite executives, managers and leaders in trade roles.

You'll also gain the technical knowledge, in-demand skills, and leadership strategies you need to move your career and your organisation forward, all in a welcoming environment that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in construction.



Interactive
Champagne
Roundtables

Skills Spotlight
Sessions

Women in Action
Case Studies

Industry Trend
Spotlight Sessions

“The conference was a great success with a high calibre of speakers; I connected with some great people and came away with a different lens on what some women face within our industry and how we can strive for better equality on site.”

Blaise Fisher, Product Manager + Special Projects,
Southern Vale Homes (past attendee)



WHY YOU NEED TO BE AT THE WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT 2025

1

Join the premier event for women in construction to accelerate your career and drive organisational success

3

Gain practical tools to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion through inspiring Women in Action case studies

5

Participate in interactive champagne roundtables to exchange ideas, gain actionable advice, and build valuable connections

7

Expand your network with authentic and accomplished leaders who can support your professional growth

2

Sharpen your leadership, project management, and business strategy skills with expert insights from **John Holland** and **Seymour Whyte**

4

Explore how top companies like **Laing O'Rourke**, **Clough**, and **McConnell Dowell** are tackling technology, sustainability, safety and climate resilience challenges

6

Access proven strategies for career advancement from trailblazers at **UGL**, **Lendlease**, **ADCO** & **NAWIC**

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS



Jennifer Perkins
Director Learning and
Teaching Electrical Trades
TAFE NSW



Anne Boyle
Site Supervisor
Alchemy Construct



Emma Baptist
Operations Manager -
Victoria
Monadelphous



Nuria Florentino
Skills and Legacy Director
**Torrens to Darlington
Alliance**



Samantha Grant
Board Member
Tradeswomen Australia



Rachael Lee
Senior Manager,
Environment & Sustainability
Clough



Beck Ricardo
Senior Site Supervisor
Icon



Penelope Arnold
Human Resources Director
GS E&C



Mathanki Aru
Victoria State Manager
Structerre Consulting



Alison Brereton
Project Manager
Nicholson Construction



Kayla Collins
Senior Supervisor
Laing O'Rourke



Rebecca De Cicco
Director Digital Engineering
DBM Vircon;
Global Chair and Founder
Women in BIM



Nicole Strickland
Senior Environmental
Advisor
Laing O'Rourke



Tayla Fairthorne
ESG Manager
Kapitol Group



Tracey Mitchell
Senior Safety Adviser
CYP Metro Tunnel



Amy Dowel
Construction Project
Manager
Seymour Whyte



Paisley Flinn
Operations Manager
Sienna Homes



Mary Canagaratnam
Project Manager
Figurehead Construction



Bronwyn Williams
Keynote Speaker, Mentor,
PhD Researcher



Liz Holzschuster
HSEQ Manager
Newpol Construction



Jacqueline Larkings
Inspector Construction,
Field Operations Health and
Safety
WorkSafe Victoria



Angela Hucker
Chief Empowerment Officer
EPIC



Jeanette Sleiman
Senior Design Manager
CPB Contractors




“Great to hear from speakers from industry and government, providing insight into the strategies and concepts that are being developed in relation to increasing and maintaining diversity in the workplace. Very diverse collection of women from all aspects of the construction industry, working collaboratively towards a common goal.”

Julia Hay, SMP Operations Manager, **ACCIONA** (past attendee)



AGENDA DAY 1 | Wednesday, 30 April

08:30 Registration and welcome coffee
08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair
**Jennifer Perkins**
Director Learning and Teaching Electrical Trades
TAFE NSW


EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION


09:00 **From insights to action: Shaping the future of women in construction**
Join NAWIC CEO Cathryn Greville as we explore the current landscape of women in the construction industry and chart a course for a more inclusive future. With a focus on actionable insights, practical solutions, and the latest statistics and research, you'll gain knowledge and tools to drive change within your own organisation and career.


**Cathryn Greville**
Chief Executive Officer
NAWIC


09:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Many paths, one destination: building a successful career**

Panellists:


**Jessie Murray**
Commercial Manager
Defence & Special Projects
ADCO Constructions

**Emma Baptist**
Operations Manager -
Victoria
Monadelphous

**Nuria Florentino**
Skills and Legacy Director
Torrens to Darlington
Alliance


**Anne Boyle**
Site Supervisor
Alchemy Construct

10:20 **The role of AI in expanding and shaping construction**

**Emma Crichton**
Chief Executive Officer APAC
AutogenAI

10:40 Morning tea & networking

11:10 **Innovation as a catalyst for women in construction leadership**
• How innovation is opening doors for women in construction
• The role of leadership in creating inclusive workplace cultures in traditionally male-dominated industries
• Actionable insights for women seeking to thrive and lead

**Skye Bowie**
Chief Integrity & Risk Officer and Acting Chief Building Regulator
Queensland Building and Construction Commission


11:40 **WOMEN IN ACTION CASE STUDY: A roadmap to advancing gender equity and diversity on construction sites**

This case study highlights a successful initiative led by MRPV to establish minimum standards for gender equity on construction sites and implement a roadmap to promote diversity across their projects.

**Katrina Rio**
Acting Director Social & Sustainable Infrastructure
Major Road Projects Victoria

12:00 **INDUSTRY TREND SPOTLIGHT: Sustainability's role in shaping today's construction projects and tomorrow's environmental and business outcomes**

- Exploring key sustainability trends such as green building practices, ESG standards, renewables and energy-efficient technologies
- Examining how sustainable construction is reshaping project planning, materials sourcing, and environmental responsibility
- Highlighting new opportunities in leadership, project management, and specialised roles driven by the industry's sustainability shift


**Rachael Lee**
Senior Manager, Environment and Sustainability
Clough

12:30 Networking lunch


CREATING THE CAREER YOU WANT


13:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Insights from the ground - revelations & guidance from women in trade and site roles**


Moderator:


**Liz Holzschuster**
HSEQ Manager
Leupol Construction

Panellists:

**Kayla Collins**
Senior Site Supervisor
Laing O'Rourke

**Kate Leone**
Communications Engineer
UGL

**Beck Ricardo**
Senior Site Supervisor
Icon

**Jacqueline Larkings**
Inspector Construction,
Field Operations Health
& Safety
WorkSafe Victoria


14:10 **WOMEN IN ACTION CASE STUDY: Embracing flexibility to advance careers & retain talent**

Explore how flexibility is essential to building a diverse and sustainable workforce while advancing career progression, with insights into the Safe Hands program and how tailored approaches can meet the diverse needs of workers, grow careers, and retain talent.

**Samantha Grant**
Board Member
Tradeswomen Australia

14:30 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Developing the essential but often overlooked skills you need to influence others and succeed in construction**

- Recognising influence as the centre point of driving innovation, managing stakeholders & delivering successful projects
- Developing business acumen and contributing to decision making
- Mastering the art of negotiation to drive project success

**Stefanie Nutt**
People and Culture Director - M7-M12 Integration Project, John Holland
Director, NAWIC

15:00 **FIRESIDE CHAT: Achieving a thriving construction career while nurturing a fulfilling personal life**

- Finding the balance between work, extracurricular professional development, and life outside the workplace
- Establishing clear boundaries between work and personal life
- Building a strong support network

**Claire Hudson**
Head of Workforce Planning
& Recruitment
Richard Crookes Constructions

**Penelope Arnold**
Human Resources Director
GS E&C

15:30 Afternoon tea & networking

INTERACTIVE CHAMPAGNE ROUNDTABLES

Choose three of the below to attend with each roundtable running concurrently over three time slots:

Round 1 ▶ 16:00 - 16:30


Round 2 ▶ 16:30 - 17:00

Round 3 ▶ 17:00 - 17:30


Roundtable 1 ▶ **Actionable steps to drive diversity on construction sites**

**Gladys Woods**
General Manager
Haslin Constructions

Roundtable 2 ▶ **Navigating how technology is shaping our projects and our roles**

**Éadaoin McGovern**
Technical Director – Transport
Mott MacDonald


Roundtable 3 ▶ **Fostering work-life balance in a demanding industry**

**Nuria Florentino**
Skills and Legacy Director
Torrens to Darlington Alliance


Roundtable 4 ▶ **How to deal with difficult co-workers, managers & situations**

**Claire Hudson**
Head of Workforce Planning and Recruitment
Richard Crookes Constructions


Roundtable 5 ▶ **Overcoming imposter syndrome and communicating with confidence**

**Mathanki Aru**
Victoria State Manager
Structerre Consulting

Roundtable 6 ▶ **Constructing a sustainable future**

**Bohemia Hookham**
Sustainability Manager, Construction
Lendlease

Roundtable 7 ▶ **Moving from a trade or site role to management**

**Jennifer Perkins**
Director Learning and Teaching Electrical Trades
TAFE NSW


17:30 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:35 End of Day 1 and networking drinks

18:45 Official Event Dinner



AGENDA DAY 2 | Thursday, 1 May

08:30 Welcome coffee
08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair
**Liz Holzschuster**
HSEQ Manager
[Newpol Construction](#)

ACHIEVING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION THROUGH COLLABORATION

09:00 **Building bridges: How men can champion women's success in construction to drive real & lasting change**
Examine success stories and lessons learned from past and current initiatives at FSC aimed at fostering a culture of collaboration, creating meaningful opportunities for growth, and building an inclusive environment that benefits everyone. With each example, you'll gain actionable strategies for male allies to support and uplift women in the industry.



Lachlan Smith
Managing Director
[FSC Group](#)

09:20 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Overcoming gender bias & discrimination - how can we meaningfully drive real progress?**

Panellists:



Ivan Fratric
General Manager VIC/SA/
TAS
[BMD Group](#)



Alison Breton
Project Manager
[Nicholson Construction](#)



Jeanette Sleiman
Senior Design Manager
[CPB Contractors](#)



Steve Cornish
Chief of Strategic Operations
[Symal Group](#)

10:10 Morning tea & networking

10:40 **WOMEN IN ACTION CASE STUDY: Collaborating with Indigenous communities - a path to inclusive development**

Examine how women are leading construction projects that foster collaboration with Indigenous communities, ensuring cultural heritage is respected while delivering vital infrastructure. An accomplished Indigenous leader, Sharon will share her experience in driving cultural, inclusion and diversity transformation, including offering insights on applying the Connecting with Country framework to construction.



Sharon Gray
Group Manager - Diversity, Indigenous and Social Inclusion
[CPB Contractors](#)

DRIVING PROGRESS IN SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY & ESG

11:10 **Practical solutions to elevate physical safety and mental health & wellbeing**

- Incorporating physical risk management and mental health awareness into comprehensive safety training
- Supporting workers facing stress, fatigue, and other challenges
- Promoting a holistic approach to workforce wellbeing by integrating safety, mental health, and wellness initiatives into everyday site operations
- Practical solutions to physical and mental health risks specifically faced by women



Tracey Mitchell
Senior Safety Adviser
[CYP Metro Tunnel](#)

11:40 **INDUSTRY TREND SPOTLIGHT: How Digital Engineering is redefining project deliverables, teams, and capabilities**

- Exploring how digital engineering and technical processes are revolutionising construction projects and reshaping industry workflows
- Examining how technology is changing workforce dynamics, improving efficiency, and altering the skill sets required in the field
- Embracing continuous learning and proficiency to thrive in the evolving construction landscape



Rebecca De Cicco
Director Digital Engineering, [DBM Vircon](#)
Global Chair and Founder, [Women in BIM](#)

12:10 **INDUSTRY TREND SPOTLIGHT - FIRESIDE CHAT: Practical implementation of ESG initiatives in construction projects**
Delve into how ESG can be applied and maintained across a construction entity to drive positive project, business, and ESG outcomes, as demonstrated by real world examples and the impact of ESG initiatives across project life cycles and organisational planning as a whole.



Nicole Strickland
Senior Environmental Advisor
[Laing O'Rourke](#)



Tayla Fairthorne
ESG Manager
[Kapitol Group](#)

12:40 Networking lunch

13:40 **Risk mitigation: setting up projects and construction portfolios for success**

- Managing project risk at different phases of the project life cycle, including contractor due diligence, contingency planning and maximising outcome through contract compliance
- Identifying red flags and practical steps to mitigate risks
- Portfolio level risk



Emma Boucher
Partner - Strategy &
Performance
[McGrathNicol](#)



Suzanne Westney
Director - Strategy &
Performance
[McGrathNicol](#)

BUILDING YOUR PROJECT MANAGEMENT & RISK MITIGATION TOOLKIT

14:00 **WOMEN IN ACTION CASE STUDY: Harnessing teamwork and collaboration for ongoing project success**
Examine how effective communication and transparency engenders a high-performing team culture. Drawing upon her own experiences, Amy will highlight how colleagues can be empowered to do their best work in a positive environment.



Amy Dowel
Construction Project Manager
[Seymour Whyte](#)

14:30 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Saving a construction project in crisis**

- Understanding the types of crises in construction
- Developing robust crisis response plans and protocols
- Building resilience to make informed decisions under pressure during crisis situations
- Fostering collaboration and coordination among internal and external stakeholders to minimise impact



Nancy Italiano
Creative Design Director
[Acustruct](#)

15:00 Afternoon tea & networking

15:20 **INDUSTRY TREND SPOTLIGHT: Adapt or fail - the growing importance of climate resilience in construction**

- Exploring climate change's impact on project planning: adapting designs for flood resilience, heat mitigation, and disaster preparedness
- Examining how climate-resilient building materials and techniques are improving project durability and sustainability
- Developing a workforce skilled in climate-resilient design and construction practices to meet environmental and regulatory demands



Nicole Neal
General Manager - Health Safety Environment and Sustainability
[McConnell Dowell](#)

BUILDING ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT SKILLS

15:50 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Leading by example embodying resilience and flexibility in your team**

- Adapting to changing roles and responsibilities
- Overcoming gender stereotypes and biases
- Learning flexibility in problem-solving
- Managing stress and pressure



Sinèad Redmond
Head of Infrastructure Delivery
[GeelongPort](#)

16:20 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Empowering the next generation of women in construction**

Moderator:



Angela Hucker
Chief Empowerment Officer
[EPIC](#)



Panellists:
Dominique Gill
Managing Director
[Urban Core](#)



Paisley Flinn
Operations Manager
[Sienna Homes](#)



Sinèad Redmond
Head of Infrastructure Delivery
[GeelongPort](#)



Mary Canagaratnam
Project Manager
[Figurehead Construction](#)

17:00 Closing remarks from the Chair & end of Women in Construction Summit 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS

Tuesday, 29 April

AVAILABLE TO BOOK SEPARATELY OR AS A PART OF YOUR 3-DAY CONFERENCE PASS

SEPARATELY BOOKABLE

The pre-conference masterclass provides attendees with morning and afternoon tea breaks and a 1-hour lunch break allowing for extra networking opportunities and in-depth learning.

The masterclass starts at 9:00 and finish at 17:00.

Management and Leadership Skills for Women in Construction and Infrastructure

The construction and infrastructure industries are navigating a perfect storm of challenges: skills shortages, rapidly evolving technologies, and complex project demands. In this landscape, leaders have a pivotal role to play in driving success - not just by leading but also by managing with precision and vision. This masterclass equips you with essential management and leadership skills to thrive in this dynamic environment and empower your teams to deliver exceptional results.

In this highly interactive and practical workshop, you will:

- Distinguish between leadership and management by learning how to effectively balance strategic vision with day-to-day operational excellence
- Strengthen your influence and presence with techniques to project confidence, navigate challenging situations, and amplify your impact within your organisation and beyond
- Build and sustain high-performing teams with strategies to boost engagement, foster accountability, and inspire peak performance
- Define your management style by establishing clarity in your approach to decision-making, problem-solving, and team dynamics
- Refine your leadership brand by communicating your values and purpose in a way that inspires trust and respect
- Evaluate and enhance your capabilities by reflecting on your strengths while identifying opportunities for growth
- Master tools for collaboration and productivity while gaining practical frameworks to enhance communication, resolve conflicts, and cultivate a culture of trust and innovation

This session is designed for women at all stages of their careers - whether you're a current leader, an aspiring manager, or a professional ready to take the next step. Join us to gain actionable insights, build your confidence, and unlock new levels of success for yourself and your team.



Facilitator:

Bronwyn Williams

Keynote Speaker, Mentor, PhD Researcher

“Fantastic, inciteful and well worth attending. Networking was great with all attendees being very approachable.”

Ruth Reeves, Marine & Defence Sales, AusPress Systems (past attendee)

BECOME A PARTNER OF THE WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT 2025

If you have an innovative or market leading product, solution or service related to any part of the construction and infrastructure industry, the **Women in Construction Summit 2025** needs to be a part of your sales and marketing campaign.

This is your opportunity to engage with key decision makers representing the entire spectrum of the sector, understand their challenges, and share solutions.

Contact **Skyla Boer** on
skylab@questevents.com.au or
+61 (0) 450 778 591 to discuss how we
can help you connect with your ideal
audience.

“Very insightful and great to be in a room with likeminded people. It gave me a lot to think about and the networking aspect of it was really great.”

Halina Tam, Project Manager, DEI One Projects (past attendee)

WHAT ATTENDEES SAID ABOUT LAST YEAR'S EVENT



The passion within the room was incredible.



Jade Lee Campbell, Organiser, Construction, Australian Workers' Union



The presentations were excellent and really good networking opportunities.



Amani Eljari, Contract Administrator, Building Engineering



I was blown away by the inspiring women who have paved the way, making a such a difference within the construction industry.



Melissa Kalemis, Workforce Development Manager, DT Infrastructure



I heard so many experiences from the speakers and it was great to know you're not alone and others were in your shoes before, so it gives you more confidence to improve your skills. It was a great opportunity for women at a management level to participate in this conference.



Alma Chehri, Manager of CNW Energy, CNW Electrical Wholesale



Very valuable for all women in all stages of their construction careers.



Toni Hall, Group Commercial Business Systems Manager, Buildcorp



Truly invaluable experience. Was impressed with the topics covered over 2 days.



Fleur Wills, Branch Manager, CNW Electrical Wholesale

REGISTRATION

3 DAY STANDARD TICKET 29 April-1 May Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions Pre-conference Masterclass All networking sessions Regular price \$4,395	2 DAY STANDARD TICKET 30 April-1 May Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions All networking sessions Regular price \$3,595	PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS 29 April Full access to the pre-conference masterclass Regular price \$2,195
3 DAY EMERGING CONSTRUCTION LEADERS PACKAGE* 29 April-1 May Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions Pre-conference masterclass Regular price \$3,395	2 DAY EMERGING CONSTRUCTION LEADERS PACKAGE* 30 April-1 May Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions All networking sessions Regular price \$2,595	OFFICIAL EVENT DINNER 30 April \$220

All prices are inclusive of GST

* Emerging construction leaders pricing is only available to those with 6 years or less total industry experience. This will be verified by the Quest team, based on LinkedIn profile. Approval for this pricing is at the sole discretion of Quest Events.

* Official event dinner is available to registered attendees of the conference only

GROUP DISCOUNTS



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7-10
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11+
delegate package



Call our Account Executive with any questions or to discuss the best discount options for you.

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- Branding as an official Event Partner on the conference website, brochure, and select marketing material
- Brand recognition as a premier organisation and a destination employer of choice that supports diversity, equity & inclusion
- Acknowledgement and thanks at the event for your support
- Contact Skyla Boer on skylab@questevents.com.au to make your organisation stand out from the rest

* This offer is not available to product or software vendors. Qualification is at the discretion of Quest Events.



A reminder on how women overcome, and on the empowering energy and support it enables through gatherings that can never be undervalued. The journey is to not to endure but to flourish and thrive! Information is knowledge and knowledge is to EMPOWER. To empower is to be part of the voice of change and change is the journey, empowered communities is the destination.💬

Jacqueline Larkings, Construction Inspector, **WorkSafe Victoria** (past attendee)